

## Reflection for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Pentecost weekend)

The Apostle Paul's prayer from Ephesians 1:15-23 (**New Century Version**)

<sup>15</sup>That is why since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you. I always remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you will know him better. <sup>18</sup>I pray also that you will have greater understanding in your heart so you will know the hope to which he has called us and that you will know how rich and glorious are the blessings God has promised his holy people. <sup>19</sup>And you will know that God's power is very great for us who believe. That power is the same as the great strength <sup>20</sup>God used to raise Christ from the dead and put him at his right side in the heavenly world. <sup>21</sup>God has put Christ over all rulers, authorities, powers, and kings, not only in this world but also in the next. <sup>22</sup>God put everything under his power and made him the head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is Christ's body. The church is filled with Christ, and Christ fills everything in every way.

As we come to the Day of Pentecost, I am reminded of this scripture. This is a prayer of such blessing to the people of the church in Ephesus. Paul wishes to encourage the people by reminding them that throughout history God has revealed his great and mighty power; just it says in Psalm 29:10-11. "The LORD controls the flood. The LORD will be King forever. The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace." Paul prayed that the Ephesians would know Christ in a more personal way.

Christ is our model and the more we know of him, the more we will be like him. Is the hope we have, the hope we would wish those around us to have, not just a vague feeling that the future will be positive, but complete assurance of salvation?

Can we let this be our prayer for our families, friends and neighbours, at this time when we remember how the disciples and those with them, an number of about one hundred and twenty, were together when God made himself known in a spectacular way; through a violent wind, fire and by his Holy Spirit, do we pray for such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our homes, villages and town and the whole nation?

Can it be our prayer that the awesome power of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and is available to all, and will be welcomed by those in our midst.

Christ, having been raised from the dead is now the head of the church, the ultimate authority over the world. Jesus is God's anointed one, the Messiah, the one the nation of Israel longed for, who would restore their broken world. We, as the Church are to be the full expression of Christ, who fill his church with gifts and blessings. Christ who is the head and we are the body.

As Pentecost draws near Let us pray for others (the introduction to the Pentecost blessing)

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created, breathe into you the life he gives. May the Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us, make you joyful in the service of the Lord. May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire on the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. Amen